



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: S DOCKET NO.: 57.0265USPCT  
COVENEY ET AL. S

U.S. APPLICATION NO.: S GROUP ART UNIT: 1712  
09/581,485 S

FILING DATE: 31 JUL. 2000 S EXAMINER: TUCKER, PHILIP  
C. S

TITLE: STABILIZING CLAYEY S  
FORMATIONS S

I hereby certify that this correspondence  
is being deposited with the United States  
Patent Service as first class mail in an  
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on January 22, 2003

Sherri Sitzmann  
(name of person making deposit)  
Sherri Sitzmann

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO

FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 31 JULY 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2002  
(the "Office Action"), please amend the above-identified  
application as follows. Reconsideration of the  
application is respectfully requested.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 7 and 8.

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

- (twice amended) A method of stabilizing a clayey geological formation surrounding a hydrocarbon well comprising the steps of:

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